8th March 1934]

(ii) G.O. No. 474, dated 15th March 1933, directing an imposition of a flat water-rate of Rs. 7–8–0 per acre on second-crop lands; and

(iii) G.O. No. 1238, Revenue, dated 14th July 1933, reclassifying the irrigation sources in the Tanjore district and increasing the rate of land revenue on the major portion of the wet lands in that district by more than one rupee per acre, should be cancelled; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government propose to take action thereon; and, if so, what action?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 737.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE FOR 1934–35, TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 1934–35 AND TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

* The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" Sir, I beg to move—

'*that, with a view to the constitution of a Committee on Public Accounts for the financial year* 1934–35, *this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the President, to elect seven members to be members of the said Committee*'."

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

* The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" Sir, I beg to move—

'*that, in accordance with resolution No.* 2 *passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 8th August* 1929 *regarding the constitution of the Finance Committee, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the President, to elect eight members to be members of the Finance Committee for the financial year* 1934–35'."

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" Sir, I beg to move—

'*that with reference to G.O. No.* 55, *Railway, dated* 10*th December* 1923, *this Council do recommend to the Government to communicate to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company the names of two persons elected by this Council in accordance with the arrangements made in that behalf by the Hon. the President to sit on the Advisory Committee of the said Railway after* 31*st March* 1934 *when the term of office of the present members of the Committee will expire*'."

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I second it."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I move an amendment to the motion of the Hon. the Finance Member?"

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"No notice of the amendment has been given."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"The orders of the day were placed on the table just now."

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Notice of this item of business was sent long ago."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Hon. Members must have received notice of this motion long ago."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Sir, I may be permitted to make a few remarks on this motion. I would suggest that the election to this body be conducted by means of the single transferable vote. The results of the elections to this body conducted according to your instructions in the previous years will go to show that the majority party in this Council has been getting both the seats allotted for this body. It is but fair that minority parties in this Council should also have an opportunity of getting representation on this body. Therefore I would suggest to the Hon. the Finance Member that the election to this body should be conducted according to the principle of the single transferable vote. That would give an opportunity to the minority parties in this Council to get one seat on this body."

* The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—"Sir, the process and method of carrying out the resolution rests with the President himself, whether it should be by the method of the single transferable vote or by what method it should be done. As my hon. Friend has just asked me to consider his suggestion, I would reply to him that he had better make the suggestion to you, Sir."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"For a long time past a certain procedure has been followed by this House in the matter of election of members to this Advisory Committee. Till now no objection has been raised to the method that has been followed. If the hon. Member had suggested it some time earlier, I would have thought of any other arrangement if it was found necessary. Now the usual method may be followed and the suggestion might be considered next year."

The motion of the Hon. the Finance Member was put and carried.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In accordance with the regulations framed under Standing Order No. 80 for the election of Members of the Public Accounts Committee by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday as the time within which notice of nominations should be given to the Secretary. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., seven, there will be an election between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Wednesday the 14th instant.

"In accordance with the regulations framed under Standing Order No. 80 for the purpose of election of Members to the Finance Committee by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday as the time within which notice of nominations should be given to the Secretary. If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., eight, there will be an election between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Wednesday the 14th instant.

"With regard to the election of two Members to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, I would suggest that hon. Members hand in nominations to the Secretary before 3 p.m. on Monday the 12th instant. If the number of candidates nominated exceeds two, an election will be held between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Tuesday the 13th instant. The election will be by the ordinary method and not according to the method of single transferable vote.

IV.—AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Sir, I beg to present the [a]Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider certain draft amendments to the Standing Orders of the Madras Legislative Council and move that the report be taken into consideration."

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

Standing Order No. 2 was put and carried.

Standing Order No. 4.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'*In line* 2 for *the figures and letters* "11 *a.m.*" *and* "5 *p.m.*," substitute *the figures and letters* "2 *p.m.*" *and* "6 *p.m.*" *respectively*.'

"My object is that this House may be enabled to sit during the afternoon instead of in the forenoon. A famous citizen of Madras said that Madras is nine months hot and three months hotter. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. is not at all suitable for any serious work, particularly the first few hours of the forenoon. Coming as we do soon after breakfast—so far as Indian Members are concerned—and perhaps soon after a heavy meal so far as European Members are concerned, it is rather a great strain upon the activities of individuals who sit for serious work. I happened to be reading the lives of the Nawabs of the days of Jonn Company. They seem to have started their work early in the morning;

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a Printed as Appendix II on page 588–598 infra.